Please cancel claims 1-26, without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims:

26. (New) A method for monitoring an interior of a motor vehicle and a surrounding area of the motor vehicle, comprising:

(1) capturing an image of at least part of the surrounding area of the motor vehicle by a camera device;

(2) capturing an image of at least part of the interior of the motor vehicle by the camera device, the steps (1) and (2) being performed alternately; and

(3) transmitting the images obtained in steps (1) and (2) to a processing unit.

27. (New) The method according to claim 26, wherein:

the at least part of the surrounding area of the vehicle is in a direction of travel.

28. (New) The method according to claim 26, wherein:

the at least part of the interior of the vehicle includes parts of a body of a driver.

29. (New) The method according to claim 26, wherein step (1) includes illuminating the interior of the vehicle by a radiation source, the radiation source emitting a radiation at least substantially invisible to the human eye.

30. (New) The method according to claim 29, wherein:

the radiation source is an infra-red radiation source.

31. (New) The method according to claim 26, wherein step (2) includes:

superimposing the at least part of the interior of the vehicle visible to the camera device on the at least part of the surrounding area of the vehicle visible to the camera device; and

determining the image of the at least part of
the interior of the vehicle by subtracting the image
of the at least part of the surrounding area.

32. (New) The method according to claim 26, wherein:
only an image of an area surrounding the motor
vehicle visible to the camera device is captured in the
step (1); and
only an image of the interior of the motor vehicle
visible to the camera device is captured in the step (2).

33. (New) The method according to claim 32, wherein:
switching back and forth between the step (1) the
step (2) is accomplished via at least one light valve.

34. (New) The method according to claim 33, wherein:
the at least one light valve is an electro-optical
light valve.

35. (New) The method according to claim 26, wherein an image
captured is only a partial area of a maximum image that may be
captured by the camera device, the partial area of the maximum
image including at least one of image rows, image columns, and
image pixels, and wherein the method further comprises:
switching back and forth between capturing a partial
area of the interior and a partial area of the
surrounding area;
processing by the processing unit the partial areas
captured; and
capturing a next partial area.

36. (New) The method according to claim 26, further
comprising:
capturing a face of a driver, the face including
eyes of the driver.

37. (New) The method according to claim 26, further

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comprising:

capturing at least one of road markings and a position of the vehicle relative to the road markings.

38. (New) The method according to claim 36, further comprising:

evaluating at least one of the face of the driver and a position of the vehicle relative to road markings to determine at least one of whether the eyes of the driver are open and whether the vehicle is moving beyond a predefined area of the road markings; and

issuing at least one of a visual warning and an audible warning based on the evaluation.

39. (New) The method according to claim 26, further comprising:

capturing road signs.

40. (New) The method according to claim 26, further comprising:

determining at least one of a number of people in the vehicle and a seat occupancy.

41. (New) The method according to claim 40, further comprising:

deactivating at least one of an airbag and a seat heater of a corresponding seat when the corresponding seat is one of empty and occupied by a child seat.

42. (New) The method according to claim 26, further comprising:

capturing lip movements of a person in the vehicle to support a speech input system.

43. (New) The method according to claim 42, wherein:

the person is a driver of the vehicle.

44.   (New) A device for monitoring an interior of a motor
vehicle and a surrounding area of the motor vehicle,
comprising:

　　　　a camera device configured to alternately capture an
image of at least part of the interior of the motor
vehicle and an image of at least part of the surrounding
area of the motor vehicle; and

　　　　a processing unit connected to the camera device,
the images captured by the camera device transmitted to
the processing unit.

45.   (New) The device according to claim 44, wherein:
　　　　a first beam path of the camera device points in a
direction of a road in front of the vehicle; and
　　　　a second beam path of the camera device points in a
direction of the interior.

46.   (New) The device according to claim 45, wherein:
　　　　the second beam path of the camera device points in
a direction of a driver in the interior.

47.   (New) The device according to claim 44, further
comprising:
　　　　an illumination unit configured to emit a radiation
at least substantially invisible to the human eye, the
illumination unit controlled by the processing unit.

48.   (New) The device according to claim 47, wherein:
　　　　the radiation is infra-red radiation.

49.   (New) The device according to claim 44, further
comprising:
　　　　an infra-red filter arranged in the camera device.

50.   (New) The device according to claim 49, wherein:
　　　　the infra-red filter is arranged in the second beam
path in the direction of the interior.

51. (New) The device according to claim 44, further comprising:

at least one light valve arranged in the camera device.

52. (New) The device according to claim 51, wherein:

the at least one light valve is a liquid crystal cell.

53. (New) The device according to claim 44, further comprising:

at least one deviation mirror arranged in the camera device.

54. (New) The device according to claim 53, wherein:

the at least one deviation mirror is semi-transparent.

55. (New) The device according to claim 54, wherein:

the at least one deviation mirror is one of concave and convex.

56. (New) The device according to claim 44, wherein:

the camera device has a single camera.

57. (New) The device according to claim 56, wherein:

the single camera is one of a CCD camera and a CMOS camera.

58. (New) The device according to claim 44, wherein:

the camera device has at least two cameras for capturing images stereoscopically.

59. (New) The device according to claim 44, further comprising:

at least one of visual output units and acoustic output units connected to the processing unit, the at

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